

# KONTAKT Newsletter

February 2015



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## NORFOLK & NORWICH / KOBLENZ FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION



Welcome to the February 2015 edition of Kontakt, with our motto "Friendship and Understanding", Greetings to you all and best wishes in our 35th Anniversary year, that our twinning will continue and foster new and widening opportunities for contacts between our cities and their surrounding areas.

Since our last Newsletter in August 2014, the main NNKFA events have been our **34th Anniversary Lunch** at Park Farm, Restaurant on Sunday 14th September, starting with a welcome glass of "Winningen Riesling" wine. Well attended by members and friends, we were very pleased to welcome The Lord Mayor of Norwich, Councillor Judith Lubbock and her husband, Nigel, the Chairman of Norfolk County Council, Councillor Brian Hannah and his wife Beverly.

The very kind "thank you cards" from our Civic Guests reflected the atmosphere, which we always enjoy at our lunches. We are especially pleased to welcome civic guests, which shows their appreciation of what we and other Twinning Associations do, and enables us to express thanks for the support, which we receive from the County and City.





## Advent Evening December 1st 2014

The Advent Evening was held again in the historic surroundings, the Birkbeck Hall, of the Great Hospital.

Committee members had arrived at lunch time to decorate the tables and help prepare the hall, while the staff had erected and decorated the Christmas Tree. Christa Wood had again prepared over 70 attractive "Advent Tüten" with German Lebkuchen selection, and her husband Colin had cut the Stollen (German Christmas cake), with his usual precision. On the welcome table was the traditional "Advent Kranz", with the first candle glowing and the whole room looked festive.

Waltraud welcomed friends and guests, with a focus on Advent being the "quiet" time of the year in preparation for Christmas. We were pleased again to welcome the Lord Mayor, Councillor Judith Lubbock, her husband Nigel, the Sheriff's Lady Monica Armstrong and the Chairman of Norfolk County Council Councillor Brian Hannah and his wife, Beverly.

Ros and David Lancaster organised the first part of the evening, with German and English Carols. David gave translations of the German, and we sang joyfully. Christa Wood and Christopher Mallet read the nativity Story in German and in English.

We welcomed members of the Cathedral Choir and Cathedral Consort, men and women, who, as always, delighted us with their singing of traditional carols. Our Civic Guests and all of us felt that this was a wonderful start to Christmas.



## Other items of News

Very precious remain the memories of members, who have died, Jane Burke, a strong Sewell Barn Theatre link, Bill Webster, the Norwich in Bloom Ambassador, Margaret Bradley-Watson and Joan Jarrold, both members, who were most supportive of visits and events.

A very warm welcome to all new members, particularly Rebecca Possener, who is a UK German Youth Ambassador for this year under a scheme supported by the UK and German governments.

**Dragon Hall**, which has hosted the Twinning Centre since 1996 will change its use to the Norwich Writers Circle, which should ensure that it has a viable future. Watch this space!

**Radio Hams** still keep in regular monthly contact through Malcolm Prestwood and Arno Herz in Koblenz, who is also a contact for HWK and university music.



## Future events 2015

**Wednesday 25th February**

12 noon Twinning Lunch Debut Restaurant

**Friday March 13th**

7.00 pm AGM County Hall

**Saturday March 21st**

Joint concert Norwich Phil & Musik Institut

**Saturday June 20th**

Summer Outing to Sandringham by coach

**Sunday September 13th**

Birthday Lunch at Park Farm, Hethersett

**Sunday 20th September**

Koblenz Visit by NNKFA

**to Sunday 27 September**

**Tuesday 1st December**

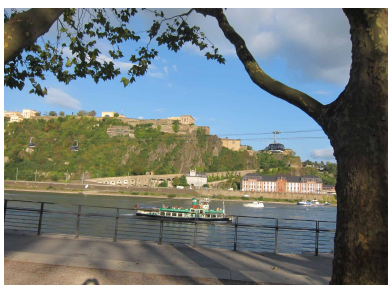
Advent Evening

10th to 13th June Feed the Minds Book Fair. St. Andrews Church, Norwich.NR2 4AD

## Visit to Koblenz in September



Please let us know and fill in a Booking Form as soon as possible. We have to have enough numbers to book the coach and ferry, with a firm booking. The programme is not yet fixed, but will contain a mixture of the familiar and new and also allow for some free time. It may not be possible to accept late bookings. We would particularly welcome new members and those who have not been to Koblenz previously. It is a very beautiful and interesting area to visit.



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## Koblenz and Christmas Markets Trip December 2014:

Our German Christmas adventure started early on Sunday, 7th December.

My mother (Barbara), girlfriend (Victoria) and I drove to Dover and caught the Eurotunnel train to Calais. From there we drove all the way to Koblenz traveling through Belgium and the Netherlands as we went. The weather conditions for driving were atrocious with constant rain, sleet and snow. We arrived at the Hotel Mercure quite late, so had a modest dinner and went straight to bed.

Monday morning we set off into Koblenz to investigate and enjoy the Christmas market, which was spread throughout the “old” part of the city, so we were able to navigate our way round lots of interesting nooks and crannies while taking in the beautiful city and the weird and wonderful market stalls. We stopped at most buying the occasional Christmas present for friends and family back home and took every opportunity to buy and sample some of the local German edible delicacies as well as plenty of Gluhwein (mulled wine).

On Tuesday we decided to travel to Trier to take in the Christmas market there. We decided to drive along the Moselle River and stopped off in the beautiful little town of Cochem for a wonderful German breakfast. We carried on along the river taking in some of the breath-taking scenery until we reached Trier, where we enjoyed yet more Christmas market festivities and found the Roman architecture to be stunning. We travelled back to Koblenz that evening but decided to cut our time in Koblenz short and move on to Cologne and spend our last night there.

Wednesday morning we packed up and drove to Cologne. Unlike Koblenz and Trier, Cologne was simply too much to take in in one day! (Especially when my mother and girlfriend wanted to spend so much time at the Lindt chocolate factory and museum.) With a total of eight enormous Christmas markets spread out throughout the city it was vast. We did however manage to get round several, while also taking some time out to take in and enjoy the spectacle that is Cologne Cathedral.

On Thursday we were up early to have breakfast and set-off in good time to get back to Norwich. It was a thoroughly enjoyable holiday, it was just a shame we did not have more time to take in more of it. My girlfriend had never visited Germany before but has since told me it was one of the best holidays she had ever been on.

*Daniel Taylor.*

